

Analysis...

Just what can churches say, do in election year?

By Michael K. Whitehead

WASHINGTON (BP) — Are you suffering from "tax-exemption paranoia?"

This fear can paralyze churches and prevent them from helping members to apply their Bible-based convictions when exercising their citizenship.

In extreme cases, victims are afraid it is illegal even to talk about political issues or candidates while inside a church building. They would prefer that pastors and teachers avoid criticizing government policies or politicians rather than take any chance the Internal Revenue Service might revoke the church's tax exemption.

Is it possible Baptists have allowed the principle of church-state separation to be so mangled by modern secularists it is now used to intimidate the church into silence about political/moral issues in exchange for exemption from income taxes?

Part of the reason for the paranoia is an ambiguous statute. Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code has two rules which regulate political activity by churches and exempt corporations.

The first rule permits some lobbying or "influencing legislation" by a church body, so long as it is

"no substantial part of the activities" of the entity. The code does not define "influencing legislation" or "substantial part."

The second rule prohibits a church or tax-exempt corporation from "participat(ing) in or interven(ing) in (including the publishing and distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office." The code does not define "participate" or "intervene."

The IRS always could change its policy and start enforcing the letter of the law against churches. If that happens, churches will doubtless ask the Supreme Court to hear many of these cases in order to define the rights and duties of churches and members.

Until then, it is prudent to "drive with care" but without paranoia. Pastors don't have to be tax lawyers to make practical daily judgments about complying with the law while still obeying Christ's command to be "salt" and "light." Like the driver on an interstate, pastors and churches can make some informed judgments about the level of risk with which they feel comfortable.

Whitehead is general counsel for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Europeans OK statement restoring work with FMB

By Mike Creswell

HODDESDON, England (BP) — European Baptists have approved an agreement that restores a working relationship with the Foreign Mission Board.

The executive council of the European Baptist Federation (EBF) voted almost unanimously during its annual meeting Sept. 28-Oct. 1 near London to accept the "Hamburg Agreement." That ended a year-long break in fellowship following the Foreign Mission Board's defunding of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

In the discussions at Hamburg, FMB trustee chairman John Jackson told European Baptists repeatedly that trustees do not have a global theological agenda to impose on others. The agreement

said the mission board's principal objective "continues to be evangelism which results in indigenous Baptist churches."

FMB trustees were expected to vote on the agreement during their Oct. 12-14 meeting. Trustee chairman Jackson said after the Hamburg meeting he expects the agreement to win easy approval.

Also, leaders of the Foreign Mission Board and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will meet for a dialogue Oct. 15 in Charlotte, N.C. The dialogue grew out of a July 27 dialogue between FMB leaders and the Woman's Missionary Union. At that time, WMU leaders asked Jackson to arrange a meeting with the CBF to discuss matters of concern and relationships.

Creswell writes for FMB.

BJC delays action on lawsuit while talks continue with SBC

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Representatives from the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Joint Committee will try one more time to resolve their dispute over a \$300,000 capital-needs fund and keep the matter out of court.

The Baptist Joint Committee authorized its chairman and attorney to discuss the matter again

with the SBC's attorney and chief executive. Although both sides emphasize there is no proposal on the table, both say they are willing to "open dialogue" again.

The \$300,000 fund has been a point of contention for more than a year. Both sides have suggested the BJC may take the issue to court, but the BJC has not said if it plans to file a lawsuit.

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Religious freedom bill dies in Senate Judiciary Committee

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Religious Freedom Restoration Act failed to clear the Senate Judiciary Committee, killing any hopes of passage in the final days of the 1992 congressional session.

RFRA, S. 2969 in the Senate and H.R. 2797 in the House, is designed to return the free exercise of religion to its status before the Supreme Court's much-criticized 1990 Employment Division v. Smith opinion.

Sen. Alan Simpson put a hold on RFRA Oct. 2 in the Judiciary

Committee, ending any chance of the bill being voted on by the committee or the full Senate until the next session of Congress. At the time, Congress was scheduled to adjourn Oct. 6.

"We're very disappointed in Sen. Simpson's actions at the markup," said Brent Walker, Baptist Joint Committee associate general counsel. "We had hoped to have the bill reported out and get it to the floor... but we're still very optimistic that next Congress we can rally our effort" and get the

bill passed.

"In spite of what happened in this Congress or, for that matter, what will happen in the presidential election, we are confident that RFRA will be law in the near future," said James A. Smith, director of government relations for the Christian Life Commission. "Having said that, Southern Baptists should redouble their efforts to make this so."

Strode is director, media & news information, Washington office, CLC.

Honduran men catch spiritual fire after meeting with Mississippians

By Stanley Stamps

A year ago at the close of the Honduras Baptist Men's Congress, the outgoing national coordinator, Carlos Mendoza, recommended that the Baptist Men of Honduras extend an invitation to the Baptist Men of Mississippi to participate in the 1992 congress. The newly-elected coordinator, Hermelindo Maldonado, made the formal request through the Mississippi Brotherhood office and the Honduras Mission of Foreign Mission Board.

Paul David Aultman, pastor of First Church, Ocean Springs, and David Langston, a layman from Crossgates Church, Brandon, responded to the invitation. They were met in Tegucigalpa by Southern Baptist missionary Stanley Stamps and taken to the Baptist Encampment at Lake Yojoa.

Over 230 men and boys enrolled for the congress, which was held at the lakeside retreat facility. The program was perhaps the best in history and the response was overwhelming. Paul and David were very good in their presentations in spite of having to speak through interpreters to as many as three rotating groups.

In addition, Honduras Baptist leadership participated in the program [to explain] the Honduras Baptist convention, its ministries, and projected plans.

It was evident that there is a growing awareness of missions and an increased desire to be involved in missions. An offering of \$80 was received as the first such missions offering by the men. (Baptist women have for several years been promoting prayer and offerings.)

The congress proved to be just what was needed, and sparked a positive response. I am glad to have had a small part in it.

Stamps is a Southern Baptist missionary in Honduras.



Paul David Aultman (above, standing at center), pastor of First Church, Ocean Springs, leads participants in prayer at the fourth annual Honduras Baptist Men's Congress at the Baptist encampment at Lake Yojoa, Honduras. Honduran pastor Anibal Flores (above, standing at left) also participated in the service. David Langston (below, seated at left), a layman from Crossgates Church, Brandon, and Aultman package Mississippi butterbeans at the home of Honduran Southern Baptist missionary Stanley Stamps for distribution to residents around the encampment. (Photos by Stanley Stamps)



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Keith Parks and
Bold Mission Thrust

Some are already calling the Bold Mission Thrust the "Bold Mission Bust," but don't write it off yet. Baptists are still geared to evangelism and are reaching people in innovative ways. Hunter Riggins, former Foreign Mission Board trustee, says, "Keith Parks' leadership and vision have been a catalyst for global evangelism."

The Foreign Mission Board's BMT goals by A.D. 2000 included 5,000 missionaries. From 1976 to 1991 there has been a 46% increase in the number of missionaries; today we have 3,906. Also, we've gone from 82 countries to 122; from 7,584 churches to 27,932, or a 268% increase. In the past 15 years baptisms have increased 188% and seminary enrollment by 283%. The Foreign Mission Board has not forgotten the mission thrust and this work will continue.

The strongest effort of the FMB appears to be in the area of volunteers. There was a 909% increase — from 1,200 to 12,108 — in the 15-year span. Much of this is the result of missionary education. Recently the FMB published information from a poll declaring the larger percentage of our people get their mission information from their state papers. The age group 45-75 gets 72%, the 25-44 age group gets 56% of its information

from their state Baptist papers.

The board is facing some critical world issues. The massive migration of peoples from south to north, from less developed to more developed nations is a major trend. The FMB is daily studying a strategy for the 16.5 million refugees, the sharing of information with conventions overseas, and population shifts and urbanization which will affect all the work.

Islam continues to be a chief competitor to Christianity. Islamic growth comes mainly from the 2.7% biological growth in Islamic countries. Coping with the modern world has caused many Muslims to be more responsive to Christianity. The continued development of technology has carried mission work from the drum-beat to the satellite systems. In widening circles missionaries are using new means of communication with ethnic, tribal, and other groups worldwide.

It has been suggested by Russian believers that we count baptisms and not raised hands at an evangelism meeting. The rapid influx into Russia by almost every denomination, many evangelistic organizations, and even individual churches is getting to be a sore spot to Russian churches. "It is good for them to come, but it needs better coordina-

tion. They come at the wrong time, often go to the wrong places, do their thing, and go home," is an oft quoted remark. The short-term looks good but the long range results are not too good.

The fall of communism, the refugee problem, and the hunger for the English language and Western culture have produced fertile fields of evangelism. The mobility of Americans and a hunger to "do missions" has produced a host of volunteers and we praise the Lord for it.

We have flooded certain fields and neglected other areas. The volunteer work must be coordinated for prime effectiveness. As Keith Parks stated, "Volunteers can never replace the career missionary." We need both. We also need cooperation and coordination.

Parks and others have laid a strong foundation, a superb organization, and launched a vision for sharing Christ with the world. Today we see a new era in modern missions. It is a new world in the sense of technology but man's need remains the same. Our methods will change but the message and the goal must remain the same. Since 1845, yea since A.D. 30, Christians have been interested in sharing the gospel. We dare not do less.

Guest opinion...

Militant feminists hurt cause of women

By John E. Roberts

Militant feminists do women a disservice in their church participation. Theologians are in general agreement that women have been badly treated throughout the history of the Christian church. They have been denied places of leadership other than in "women's organizations," given only token places on committees dominated by men, often denied opportunity to speak in church meetings.

Many churches are moving decisively to change that. In some of these the effort is being hindered by feminists who want to re-write the Bible. They would erase gender in all reference to God. He would not be "God, the Father," and for that matter not even "he." Nor would Jesus Christ be the "Son of God." Agreed, God is spirit and therefore has no gender. But God revealed himself in masculine terms and referred to Jesus Christ as his "Beloved Son." We would do well to accept the name.

Many militant feminists are men.

They include pastors, ministers of music, others. Their theology leaves something lacking when they tamper with well-loved hymns. "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" becomes "Dear Lord creator of us all." It reaches a new extreme when the Trinity is changed from "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" to "Creator, sustainer, and comforter."

Women face discrimination in the work place. They face it in business transactions. And they

face it in many, perhaps, most churches. Every Christian should be committed to fairness and justice, equality of rights, and opportunities. According to the Bible we are "neither slave nor free, Jew nor Greek, male nor female" in our relationships to God.

We must work toward that goal, but we must not be betrayed by misguided zealots who would take liberties with the Bible.

Roberts is editor, South Carolina BAPTIST COURIER.

Religious Right damages Christians, not politicians

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Christians, not politicians, are the ones who have been hurt by the alliance of the Religious Right with the Republican Party, a former White House press secretary said.

Jody Powell, press secretary to President Jimmy Carter and a member of First Church, Washington, D.C., addressed a group of

Baptist editors Oct. 5 in Washington. The event was a briefing sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee, a religious-liberty coalition.

"Almost inevitably... when organized religion gets itself too close to the political process and to partisan politics, it is religion which suffers," Powell said.

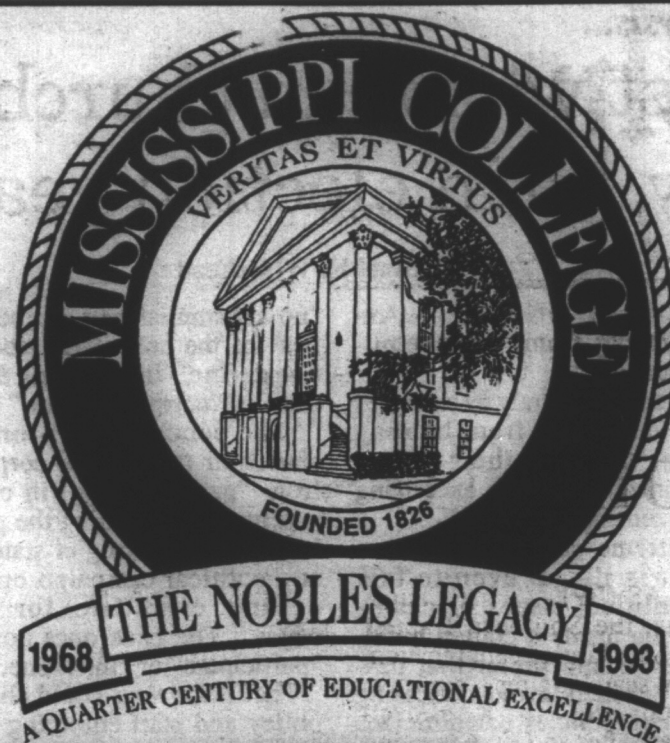
Powell said the Republican Party

is "going to be all right" after its alliance with conservative Christians has eroded. "The people who put that together from the political side and benefitted from it do not feel ticked off and discouraged. But many from the religious side do."

Powell said he sees the influence of the Religious Right declining and is saddened that many Chris-

tians are leaving the cause disenchanted with government.

The tragedy, Powell said, is that politicians took advantage of Christians in the same way they use other groups for their own gain. "On the political side, the people who were benefitting from that did not believe what they were saying."



The Nobles Legacy

Lewis Nobles came to Mississippi College 25 years ago believing that education still changes lives. It has been a quarter century of educational excellence.

In the last century, as Baptists spread out from the eastern seaboard, many desired to organize a state convention. Unofficially there were two prerequisites: a Baptist college and a Baptist paper. Mississippi had Mississippi College eight years after statehood and several Baptist papers prior to 1877 when the Baptist Record came into existence.

Since 1826 Mississippi College has sought to serve. In the last 40 years the pace has accelerated. The enrollment has doubled in the 25 years of the Nobles legacy and is now 5,138

for the latest 12-month session. It has one of the largest ratios of Merit Scholars in the southeast. The college has operated in the black during Nobles' entire tenure and endowment is 6 times greater than 25 years ago. Diplomas number 27,000 since its founding and Lewis Nobles' signature is found on almost 60% of them. Small wonder that Nobles was identified by his peers as being among the 18 most effective college presidents in America.

Nobles has shown the ability to surround himself with an able staff and a superior faculty. The academic reputation and Christian environment draw many students to MC. We salute Lewis Nobles for all these remarkable achievements and may his "tribe" increase. — GH

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Gregory resignation "firm" from First Church, Dallas

By Art Toalston

DALLAS (BP) — First Church of Dallas, the Southern Baptist Convention's largest congregation, will begin searching for a new pastor, according to a church spokesman, after an Oct. 6 meeting between Joel Gregory, who unexpectedly resigned the pulpit a week earlier, and two deacon officials.

Gregory, who indicated his resignation was "firm," was called two years ago as successor to W.A. Criswell, whose 48th year as pastor of the 28,000-member congregation was marked in special Oct. 11 services at the church. Gregory in his resignation cited difficulties with the transition period from Criswell, who has remained at the church as senior pastor and has

shared preaching duties with Gregory.

"He (Gregory) did not ask that his resignation be reconsidered, nor did the deacon leadership ask Dr. Gregory to reconsider or return as pastor," said church spokesman Ron Harris in a press release about the Oct. 6 meeting with Gregory and his wife, Linda, and Bo Sexton, chairman of First Baptist's deacons, and David Wicker, vice chairman.

"In the meeting, Mr. Sexton and Mr. Wicker expressed love for Dr. and Mrs. Gregory and their family, as did the Gregorys for the church family. All parties considered the meeting to be one of closure."

Thus the church will embark on

the same process that led it through a 27-month search for Gregory, who came to the congregation from the pastorate of Fort Worth's Travis Avenue Church.

"The vast majority of the (church's) people are really seeking God's direction, openly, honestly, prayerfully," Harris told Baptist Press when asked about a Dallas Morning News story Oct. 3 quoting several First Church members as saying Gregory was in a power struggle with Criswell.

Harris confirmed Oct. 5 that Criswell will move his office from First Church to the east Dallas college campus.

Toalston is news director, Baptist Press.

FMB search narrowed to two men, both with missionary experience

By Greg Warner and Robert Dilday

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — The search for a new president of the Foreign Mission Board has been narrowed to two men, both former missionaries.

The search committee is now poised to choose between Don Kammerdiener, FMB executive vice president, and Avery Willis, an administrator at the Sunday School Board, according to two members of the search committee.

One of the candidates is likely to become the next president of the Foreign Mission Board, succeeding 37-year missions veteran Keith Parks. Parks announced his early retirement in March, complaining the theological-political controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention has infiltrated the FMB's overseas work.

Although FMB trustees were scheduled to meet Oct. 12-14 in Richmond, Va., they were not expected to vote on a new president then. Committee members said no

choice has been made between the two finalists. However, the committee will convene during the three-day trustee meeting — Parks' last — and may pick its nominee. Another committee meeting is scheduled for Oct. 30-31.

Several committee members declined to discuss their two top candidates. But two committee members confirmed the selection of Kammerdiener and Willis on the condition of anonymity. "That's where we are right now," said one.

Two other committee members — John Greene of Lake Worth, Fla., and Terry Williams of Batesville — deferred to search chairman Joel Gregory of Dallas. "We decided early on that we'd let our chairman speak for us," explained Greene.

Gregory was in seclusion and unavailable for comment.

Hoyt Savage of Las Vegas, Nev., also declined to identify the two finalists but he added: "We have

interviewed two candidates.... Our choices are excellent choices. People will be pleased."

Although the search is focusing on Willis and Kammerdiener, the committee has not limited itself to those two, sources said.

Avery Willis acknowledged he and the committee have held a "preliminary" interview but he said he had not talked further with committee members about their selection. Kammerdiener would not confirm that he had been interviewed for the post. "That's something the search committee needs to respond to," he said.

Over the years, both Kammerdiener, 56, and Willis, 58, have worked closely with Parks, who turns 65 Oct. 23 and will leave the FMB Oct. 31.

Willis and Parks served together as missionaries in Indonesia in the 1960s, and Parks later became area director supervising Willis and other missionaries in the region. After serving 14 years on the mission field, including six years as president of the Indonesian Baptist Theological Seminary (1972-78), Willis returned to the United States.

Willis is now director of the adult department of the discipleship and family division of the Sunday School Board. He is credited with developing the popular MasterLife discipleship program, which he first used on the mission field.

Warner is director of Associated Baptist Press; Dilday writes for Virginia RELIGIOUS HERALD.

Mississippi Baptist Convention

157th Session

November 10-11, 1992

First Church, Jackson

Ponder Anew What the Almighty Can Do

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION OFFICERS

President	W.W. Walley, Waynesboro
First Vice-President	Edgar Lee Wright, Brookhaven
Second Vice-President	David Norris, Louisville
Recording Secretary	J.W. Brister, Madison
Associate Recording Secretary	W. Levon Moore, Kosciusko

November 10

Tuesday Morning		First Session
<i>Ponder anew what the Almighty desires... Matt. 28:16-20</i>		
8:45	Prelude	Organist/Pianist, First Church, Jackson
8:50	Sounding of the Gavel	W.W. Walley
8:55	Choral Praise	Sanctuary Choir, First Church, Waynesboro
		Wayne Meeks, Director
9:05	Congregational Praise	Wayne Meeks
	Scripture, Matthew 28:16-20	Michael Perry
	Prayer	Jerry Lee
9:15	Organization of the Convention	
	Recognition and Seating of Messengers	W.W. Walley
	Report of Committee on Order of Business	Bill Bacon
	Tellers and Credentials Committees	W.W. Walley
	Welcome	Jim Baker
9:30	Bible Treasure	John Phillips
9:55	Report of Committee on Committees	James T. Bryant
10:00	Presentation of Resolutions	Nathan Barber
10:15	Congregational Praise	
10:20	How I Met Jesus Testimony	T.J. Jennings
10:25	Election of President	
10:50	Choral Praise	Sanctuary Choir, First Church, Waynesboro
10:55	President's Address	W.W. Walley
11:30	Benediction	John Henry

Tuesday Afternoon		Second Session
<i>Ponder anew what the Almighty is doing... Psalm 105:1</i>		
1:40	Prelude	Organist/Pianist, First Church, Jackson
1:45	Sounding of the Gavel	Edgar Wright
	Congregational Praise	Lee Gordon
	Scripture, Psalm 105:1-5	Ben Atkinson
	Prayer	Harvey Ellis
	How I Met Jesus Testimony	Sheldon Gooch
	Testimony in Song	
2:00	Business Session	
	Presentation of 1993 Budget	Larry Otis
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Miscellaneous Business	
2:30	Discipleship Training	Mose Dangerfield
2:35	Executive Committee	
	and Stewardship Commission	John E. Rush
2:40	Seminary Extension Presentation	George Knight
2:45	Congregational Praise	
2:50	Bible Treasure	John Phillips
3:15	Convention Board Report	P.J. Scott
3:30	Business Session	
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Report of Constitution	
	and Bylaws Committee	Anthony Kay
	Miscellaneous Business	
4:00	Congregational Praise	
4:05	Vocal Praise	Testament, Mississippi State BSU
4:10	Message	Wayne Ward
4:45	Benediction	David Claxton

Tuesday Evening		Third Session
<i>Ponder anew what the Almighty has done... Psalm 145:1-6</i>		

(Continued on page 4)

SBC Cooperative Program ends year below budget

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts finished fiscal year 1991-92 slightly below budget needs as well as below the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

Chapman said the funds received by the Executive Committee for 1991-92 totaled \$138,234,734 compared to the budget goal of \$140,710,282 or 98.24% of the budget goal. The 1991-92 receipts also are 1.40% or \$1,965,659 below the previous year's receipts of \$140,200,394.

PAGE 4 BAPTIST RECORD

6:30	Prelude	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
		Milfred Valentine, Director
6:35	Sounding of the Gavel	W.W. Walley
6:40	Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
7:00	Congregational Praise	Graham Smith
	Scripture, Psalm 145:1-6	Bob Maddux
	Prayer	Dennis Ray Smith
7:10	How I Met Jesus Testimony	Les Hatcher
7:15	Final Presentation of Resolutions	
7:20	Recognition of Visitors	W.W. Walley
	Recognition of New Workers	Bill Causey
7:35	Memorial Service	Louis Smith
7:45	Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
7:50	Mississippi Baptist Convention Emphasis	Bill Causey
8:30	Benediction	Randall Hall

November 11

Wednesday Morning,		Fourth Session
<i>Ponder anew what the Almighty demands... Isaiah 1:16-20</i>		
8:45	Prelude	Handbell Choir, Forest Church
8:50	Sounding of the Gavel	W.W. Walley
8:55	Choral Praise	Chancel Choir, Forest Church,
		John Alumbaugh, Director
9:00	Congregational Praise	John Alumbaugh
	Scripture, Isaiah 1:16-20	Jim Young
	Prayer	Glenn Shows
9:10	Bible Treasure	John Phillips
9:35	Business Session	
	Adoption of 1993 Budget	Larry Otis
	Report of Committee on Nominations	Gordon Sansing
	Resolutions Committee Report (Part 1)	
	Miscellaneous Business	
10:35	Special Recognition	
10:40	Congregational Praise	
10:45	How I Met Jesus Testimony	Steve Ashton
10:50	Choral Praise	Chancel Choir, Forest Church
10:55	Vocal Praise	Scott Adkins
11:00	Convention Sermon	Sonny Adkins
11:30	Benediction	Glen Williams

Wednesday Afternoon,		Fifth Session
<i>Ponder anew what delights the Almighty... Psalm 51:15-17</i>		
1:20	Prelude	William Carey College Chorale
		Milfred Valentine, Director
1:30	Sounding of the Gavel	David Norris
	Congregational Praise	Milfred Valentine
	Scripture, Psalm 51:15-17	Mike Reid
	Prayer	Lewis Oswalt
1:40	Bible Treasure	John Phillips
2:05	Business Session	
	Report of Time, Place, Preacher Committee	Charles Pickering
	Report of Resolutions Committee (Part 2)	
	Miscellaneous Business	
2:40	Evangelism Report	J. Garland McKee
2:50	Congregational Praise	
2:55	How I Met Jesus Testimony	Jennifer Welford
3:00	Choral Praise	William Carey College Chorale
3:05	Spotlight on Christian Education	Ron Kirkland
3:15	Introduction of College Presidents	W.W. Walley
	William Carey College Report	Jim Edwards
3:25	Choral Praise	William Carey College Chorale
3:30	Message	Charles Q. Carter
4:10	Benediction	James R. Chatham II

Wednesday Evening,		Sixth Session
<i>Ponder anew what the Almighty deserves... Colossians 1:9-12</i>		
7:00	Prelude	Organist/Pianist, First Church, Jackson
7:05	Sounding of the Gavel	W.W. Walley
7:10	Congregational Praise	J.M. Wood
	Scripture, Colossians 1:9-12	Jim Yates
	Prayer	James Francis
7:20	Choral Praise	Mass Senior Adult Choir
7:30	How I Met Jesus Testimony	Woodrow Brand Jr.
7:35	Congregational Praise	
7:40	Choral Praise	Mass Senior Adult Choir
7:45	Message	Adrian Rogers
8:30	Benediction	Sammy Chisolm

Thursday, October 15, 1992

Tale of the tickets doesn't add up: lottery creates, then treats addicts

Third in a series

In Texas, help for the compulsive gambler is only a telephone call away. Ironically, the number is printed on the back of every lottery ticket sold in that state.

If that seems odd, consider this: lawmakers in Texas approved the state-run lottery and then established the toll-free addicts' hotline — in the same legislative package.

Thus the state finds itself in the awkward position of first creating and then treating the addiction. If you can't make sense of that, you are apparently not alone.

"Like the movies, the lottery offers recreation heavily laden with fantasy. It encourages escape from everyday demands of job and family to a transformed life," say Charles T. Clotfelter and Philip J. Cook in their book, *Selling Hope: State Lotteries in America*.

Most lottery players lose money, according to the two authors, but some people lose so much money that their standard of living is affected.

"By spending much more than they can afford... they suffer, and so do their creditors and dependents. In extreme cases this excessive gambling may lead to... criminal involvement, loss of employ-

By William H. Perkins Jr.

ment, and suicidal despair. These big losers do not receive the same public attention as the big winners...," they report.

The convenience and availability of lotteries have hooked a new generation on gambling, asserts Paul Griffin Jones II, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"The lottery makes gambling immediately accessible to each person in a community. After a lottery is legalized, there is a pervasive presence of gambling in individual neighborhoods," Jones says. Lottery ticket outlets on nearly every street corner make it much easier for children to get involved and become addicted, he adds.

"It might not be possible for a minor to get into a racetrack, but anyone can walk into a convenience store and buy lottery tickets, regardless of age," Jones says.

Professionals who treat the addiction are alarmed, and the director of the Maryland Council on Compulsive Gambling recently blamed the lottery for the steep rise in two new classes of compulsive gamblers — women and teenagers.

The American Psychiatric Association in 1981 classified compulsive gambling as a "DSM-III" dis-

order, in which a person is chronically and progressively unable to resist the impulse to gamble. A prominent sociologist has warned that the drastic increase in compulsive gambling could soon rival alcohol and other drugs as a major social and economic problem in America.

The reaction of the gambling industry to this glaring consumer product defect has been underwhelming.

Larry Braidfoot, academic vice president and provost at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, wrote *Gambling: A Deadly Game* in 1985 while serving as general counsel and director of Christian citizenship for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The gambling industry has to know what its product is doing. It seems obvious to me that the industry is simply ignoring the problem in the hope that public outcry will not place the blame where it truly belongs," Braidfoot says in his book.

Rather than admitting their role in the problem, he points out, gambling advocates choose to focus the issue so that someone else seems to have a problem.

(See ADDICTS on page 6)

Baptist women challenged to adopt "servant attitude" in leadership style

Mississippi Baptist women were challenged to be servant leaders through humor and inspiration during last weekend's Women's Conference at Mississippi College. Over 1,000 women attended the Oct. 9-10 conference, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Woman's Missionary Union.

Along with a variety of selective conferences on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, the women also heard challenging and informative addresses from four keynote speakers: Jeannette Clift George, Lynne Cheney, Joyce Landorf Heatherly, and Dellanna O'Brien. Christian vocalist Cynthia Clawson led in worship with original compositions and old hymns.

George, an author and Christian dramatist, developed the theme of the conference during each session. She told the women that having a healthy self-esteem is the first step in becoming an effective leader. Second is allowing God to "lead through you."

"I encourage you to become involved, become active, celebrate the opportunity to lead," George said. "God invites you to participate, to take action."

Cheney, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, reminded participants that in leading, "people are the happiest when they are reaching beyond themselves."

For her, reaching beyond herself

involves awarding grants to various group for research. The most personally satisfying grant she has approved is one for research that will establish standards for what children are taught about American history, she noted.

"We need those standards," she remarked. "Without them we allow ourselves to expect less. Our children need to know about our past so they can be effective leaders in the future."

Heatherly, author of more than 20 books, shared about her journey through divorce and consequential battle with depression. Healing for her wounds and strength to go on with her life came only after she

surrendered her pain to God, she said.

"If we are to be the beautiful Christian women God intends for us to be, we must be willing to let him have our pain and failures," she commented. Through that surrender, God can restore and prepare a person to be the leader he wants them to be, she added.

O'Brien, executive director of the SBC WMU, described a servant leader as one who is obedient, unselfish, humble, and committed.

In concluding her remarks, O'Brien said, "We have no offering to give to God that is worthy until it contains all of us. Leading servants, go forth and lead."



Lynne Cheney told participants in the Women's Conference about her work as chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Cheney is married to Richard Cheney, U.S. Secretary of Defense.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 15, 1992

HOUSE TOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

PRAYERGRAM

Oct. 15-29, 1992

PRAY for the people who are suffering the consequences of the drought in the eastern and southern parts of the continent of Africa. **MAKE A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT** to pray for rain and for the suffering people and those providing physical and spiritual ministries to them.

PRAY for Dan and Libby Panter, who are working in Belarus, of the Commonwealth of Independent States. They report 120 churches in Belarus that are enjoying freedom after 70 years of persecution from the Communists. People are coming to hear a message of comfort and hope and the buildings are filled wall to wall.

PRAY for Liberia (West Africa) and the elections scheduled for late fall in this war-torn country, that the outcome will result in greater freedom to share the gospel among the people.

Pray for the 33 million Hispanics, who make up 12 percent of the population. It is estimated that by the year 2000, the number will reach 47 million. Pray that these people may be reached for Christ.

PRAY for Rev. Humberto Becerra, pastor of the First Baptist Hispanic Church of Manhattan, N.Y. Every Sunday morning Hispanics from 15 nationalities pack the tiny auditorium. Pray for his messages transmitted over WWRV Radio, as they are heard by thousands in Greater New York City.

PRAY for migrant workers who cross the United States harvesting crops. Especially pray for the children of these workers.

PRAY for the Literacy Missions Workshop to be conducted at Briarwood Drive Baptist Church in Jackson on Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 1992. Training will be offered in four areas: Basic Adult Reading and Writing and Advanced ARW; Basic Conversational English and Advanced CE. This project is sponsored by the Hinds - Madison Baptist Association and Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB.

PRAY for the observation of Cooperative Program Month in October in Mississippi. As budget plans are made for the year ahead, prayerfully make important mission support decisions.

Pray for Associational Fall meetings across the state. The associations are on the cutting edge of missions. Attend the meeting prayerfully. in the spirit of, "Here I am, Lord. Send me." ■■■

YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

Mississippi College
Clinton, Miss.

December 28-29, 1992

Believe It!

Personalities:

LOUIE CIGLIO
Evangelist
Waco, Texas

DENNIS LEE
Ventriloquist
Dallas, Texas

LOU LEVENTHAL
Illusionist
Crowley, Texas

SAM PERRY
and "Choice Worship"
Waco, Texas

REGISTRATION
FEE: \$5.00

Sponsored by:
Evangelism Department
J. Garland McKee, Director

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Bill Causey, Executive Director/Treasurer

Bill Pettigrew: Cooperative Program Champion

by Debbie Baird Buie



W. H. "Bill" Pettigrew has been interested in the Cooperative Program since he was a kid. Honest! He recalls how as a youngster in BTU (Baptist Training Union, a forerunner of Church and Discipleship Training) the lesson quarterlies routinely devoted space to a study of stewardship, tithing, and the Cooperative Program. It was there he learned his responsibility for giving to God to facilitate the command to "go, therefore, into all the world."

Since then he has been fortunate to be able to travel and see his gifts at work in places diverse as Chicago and Idaho. He is particularly impressed by the work church planters carry out in pioneer areas.

"I've seen how the Cooperative Program supports

these missionaries as they begin a church. In Idaho we began a church not just for a community but for several counties miles around. We met under a big tent and were happy to bring in 200 people," he says.

"The Cooperative Program is important because it does a lot of things I can't do," Pettigrew says. "It supports missions, starts churches, helps ministerial students, assists our colleges, and much more."

Just this past Sunday Pettigrew, who is a member of McLaurin Heights Church in Pearl, was talking with a fellow church member about tithing. "He told me, 'Bill, the easiest part of my living the Christian life is writing out this check,'" recalls Pettigrew. "That impressed me."

Pettigrew realizes that isn't so for many people. And so he believes the more people know about what the Cooperative Program does, the more they will give systematically and generously and lead their church to do the same.

"I think people want to know what their money is spent for," he says. "If we don't tell them how it is used they won't want to give it."

McLaurin Heights is pastorless right now, but even without that leadership and even in times of financial hardship, they agree to take their Cooperative Program gifts off the top of their offering receipts. Pettigrew says the congregation believes that if that is what God expects of his people, then he expects as much of his church. At present they give about 14 percent to the Cooperative Program, he says.

The retired accountant understands money and what it can accomplish. He has seen what it accomplishes with God's blessing. Philippians 4:19 has been both promise and experience for Pettigrew and McLaurin Heights. "I like to rephrase it," he says, "By Christ Jesus, my God shall supply all my need according to his riches in glory."

"I've lived an exciting life," he says, "I've been so many places. I look back and see how the Lord has blessed me by placing me in so many opportunities of service. He has blessed me by allowing me to serve through the cooperative effort of so many others." HT

—Buie is a freelance writer living in Vicksburg.

BIBLE DRILL CLINICS

*DiscipleALL: Making
Champions*

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Associational Judges,
Callers and Leaders



SATURDAY: NOVEMBER 14

Calvary Baptist, Jackson
(Begins at 9:30 a.m.)

MONDAY: NOVEMBER 16

Hernando Baptist, Hernando
FBC, Greenwood
FBC, Biloxi.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17

FBC, Tupelo
FBC, Kosciusko
FBC, Hattiesburg

THURSDAY: NOVEMBER 19

FBC, Starkville
FBC, Meridian
FBC, Brookhaven

AGENDA:

6:30 p.m. How to call, judge and
keep time
7:30 p.m. Your choice - *Maintaining
Bible Drill or
New Ideas for Bible Drill*

1992 Youth Ministers' Conference Lake Tiak O'Khata

The annual youth ministers' conference will take place Oct. 26-28 at Lake Tiak O'Khata near Louisville.

Sponsored by the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, the conference will feature devotionals by Ryan Whitley, pastor of First Church, Cleveland. Music leader will be Mike Harland, minister of music at Crossgates Church, Brandon.

There will be sessions for wives of youth ministers to be led by Sue Barksdale, wife of the pastor of First Church, Carthage.

General sessions will be with Lamar Sage, Bill Jones, and Valerie Hardy. Sage is a youth conference leader from Sagemont Church, Houston, Tex. Jones is head of the youth ministries department of Columbia Bible College and Seminary in Columbia S.C. And Hardy is coordinator of youth volunteer programs for the Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

The only cost for the conference is lodging and meals at the conference center. Call Lake Tiak O'Khata at 773-7853. To register for the program itself, write the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or phone 968-3800. HT

Lay Missions Conference

The annual Lay Missions conference will take place Nov. 9 at First Baptist Church in Jackson. This Mississippi Baptist Convention Board sponsored conference will feature Bruce and Laura Allen of Centerville, Ga. and Jeannette Clift George of Houston, Tex.

Bruce Allen is pastor, evangelist, church starter and former Associate Director of Evangelism, Georgia Baptist Convention Board.

Laura Allen is a freelance writer, conference speaker, student missionary, US-2er, BSU director, home missionary and first national evangelism consultant for women (HMB).

Jeannette Clift George is a writer, Bible teacher, speaker, monologist, award-winning playwright, and noted Christian actress.

The agenda begins at 1 p.m. with missions seminars including topics such as *Volunteers in Missions*, *Lifestyle Evangelism*, and *Prayer Ministry*.

Mission fellowships features include *Educational Missions*, *Agri-Missions*, *HAMS*, *Medical-Dental*, *Construction*, *Church Renewal*, *Campers on Mission*, and *Cooperative Program Champions*.

At 3 p.m. Bruce and Laura Allen focus on the conference theme, *Ministry in the Marketplace* and at 5 p.m. a missions banquet and program featuring Mrs. George and *Soldiers Again* quartet from Daniel Memorial Church in Jackson, conclude the day's events.

Below is a registration form which should be mailed to Missions Banquet, Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Reservations are due by Nov. 4.

Preschool provisions will be provided 1 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. upon prior notification to the Brotherhood Department. No meal service will be provided in the preschool center. **Attach names and ages of children to registration form.** **HI**

REGISTRATION FORM Lay Missions Conference

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Enclosed is _____ for _____ dinner
reservations at \$7.50 each.

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JACKSON, MISS.**

November 9, 1992

sponsored by
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

The purpose of the Lay Missions Conference is to help explore ways to extend Christ's Kingdom through the concept of Marketplace Ministry. If we are to win Mississippi and our world to Jesus in our generation, it is significant that each of us become marketplace ministers.

Glorieta Bound.....



Thirteen Mississippians attended the Small Church conference conducted by the Sunday School Board at Glorieta Baptist Assembly August 24-28. Richard Brogan, consultant, Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB, in cooperation with the Sunday School Department of the the Convention Board and the Home Mission Board Black Church Extension Division coordinated the effort.

CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE

Don't Miss It

The 1992 Mississippi Baptist Church Media Library Conference takes place Nov. 13-14 at First Church, Greenville.

Besides plenary sessions, there will be a number of classes in such areas as administration, basic and advanced classification and cataloging, book repair, making audiovisual aids, personal consultation and conference leading skills, processing files, promotion, repair and maintenance of AV equipment, selecting media and instructional equipment, how to witness with media, and working with people.

A separate course is offered during the conference: "Being God's People: A Southern Baptist Church on Bold Mission." This is a requirement for the media skills diploma for teachers and leaders and as an alternate requirement for the media services diploma for media library staff.

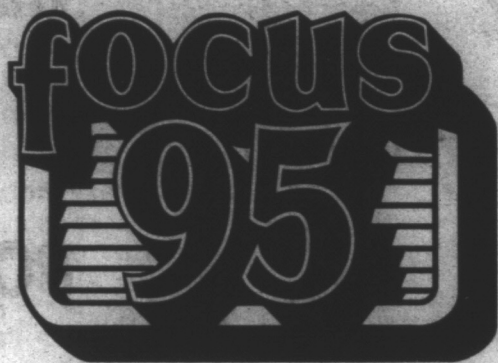
Registration begins at 9:30 on Nov. 13. Conference

sessions begin at 10. After lunch at the church, Farrell Blankenship, director of the sponsoring Broadcast Services Department, opens the plenary session at 1 p.m. Host church pastor Kiely Young will lead a devotion. Danny Ayala, a church media library consultant at the Sunday School Board, will do an interpretation of the conference theme, "Focus on Training."

Courses run through the afternoon and evening. The morning courses run through the afternoon and evening. The morning

session at 8 a.m. features Richard Wiman, author; a session on computers for church media library led by Jackie Anderson, recently retired from the BSSB's CML office; and election of officers for Mississippi CML.

The conference ends at 12:30 with final course sessions. A reservation form is below. **HT**



Focus on Training

COACHING BASKETBALL CLINIC

7:00 PM

October 29
FBC, Natchez

November 12
FBC, Columbia

Instructor:
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Mississippi College
Lady Chocs

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Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING DEPT.

Reservation Form STATE CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE

November 13-14, 1992 • FBC, Greenville

☐ Yes, I want to attend the 1992 Church Media Library Conference

Name _____
(List additional names and addresses on a separate sheet.)

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Phone (daytime) _____ (home) _____

Church Name _____ Association _____

I need _____ reservation(s) at \$2.00 each for the Friday lunch.

I need _____ reservation(s) at \$6.00 each for the Friday dinner.

Lunch/\$2.00 x _____ = \$ _____
no. of persons

Dinner/\$6.00 x _____ = \$ _____
no. of persons

Total.....= \$ _____

Please attach a list of names for whom the reservations have been made. Reservations are non-refundable after November 2.

Make check payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Mail to Broadcast Services/CML; P.O. Box 530; Jackson, MS 39205-0530.



Annual Conference of Mississippi Baptist Ministers' Wives

First Baptist Church, Jackson

Monday, November 9, 1992,
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

PURPOSE: To provide inspiration, fellowship, personal growth, information and support for the minister's wife!

FINANCES: There is no cost for this conference.

PERSONNEL: Norris and Joyce Smith, Nashville

CHILD CARE: Available on a limited basis

Simultaneous Conferences:
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"Christian Assertiveness: Everyone Wins"

Sponsored by the Church Administration/Pastoral
Ministries Dept, MBCB

Two pastors to receive Brown-Davis Award

G.L. Ford and Willie McPherson will be recipients of the Brown-Davis Award for 1992 to be given in Tupelo, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church, James Wilson, pastor.

The award was named for W.P. Davis and T.B. Brown, who worked in Mississippi as pioneers in racial reconciliation during the decades of the 1950s through the '80s.

Brown was a National Baptist pastor and Davis was a Southern Baptist minister employed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Both men served as president of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary, which formerly was operated jointly by both denomi-

nations.

G.L. Ford is a native of Auburn Community, east of Tupelo, and served as pastor of Bissell Baptist Church for 36 years. He has served as a dean and teacher for Mississippi Baptist Seminary classes conducted in Tupelo. He is interim pastor of Richmond Baptist near Tupelo.

Willie McPherson is a native of Okolona. He has been a part of the Home Mission Board's staff in Atlanta since 1984. Presently he serves as the director of the Black Church Extension Division.

The award program is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Cooperative Missions Department.

Staff Changes

Bob Horner has accepted the call as pastor of First, Hattiesburg. He previously served South-



Horner

side Church, Huntsville, Ala., and Arlington Heights Church, Pascagoula. The Horners served as missionaries to Chile from 1977 to 1983. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

Arrowood Church, Meridian, has called John W. Pace as minister of music. Previously, he was involved in music evangelism out of Kennedy Springs, Magee. He is also presently a student at New Orleans Seminary extension, and a mental health counselor at East Mississippi State Hospital.

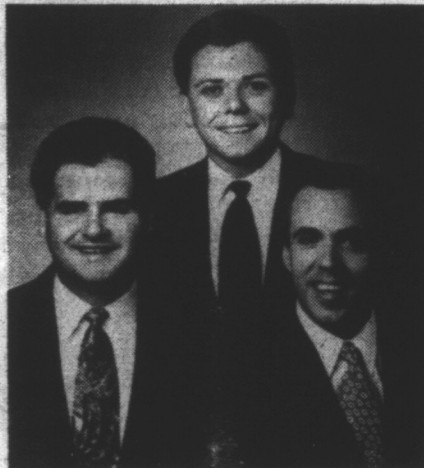
Larry Perkins has been called as associate pastor, Calvary Church, Beaumont, Texas. The Jackson native formerly served as music youth director, Northwest Hills Church, Jackson. He is a graduate of Mississippi College.

Thursday, October 15, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Just for the Record

The second annual Louisiana State Sacred Harp Singing Convention will be held Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23 and 24 in the New Orleans Seminary Cafeteria Building. The event will begin with a complimentary meal at 6:30 p.m. Friday and conclude at 2:30 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call the seminary's music office at (504) 282-4455, ext. 3226.



The men's softball team from Calvary Church, Tupelo, won the class AA Mississippi Baptist state softball tournament held this summer in Jackson. Pictured, back row, left to right, are: Tommy Arnold, Grey Hunsucker, Harold Hinchey, William Armistead, Clay Stewart, Shan Weatherly, Bob Bankston; front row, left to right: Jim Jackson, Larry Stewart, Jimmy Pollard, and Shane Harrington. John Armistead is pastor.

First, Saltillo celebrates 125th

First Church, Saltillo, will observe its 125th anniversary, beginning Oct. 17 with a church supper and prayer meeting, 7 p.m.

On Oct. 18, the church will hold a homecoming meeting, beginning with Sunday School at 9:45, worship at 11, fellowship meal at noon, Discipleship Training at 6 p.m., and evening worship at 7. J.C. Mitchell and Clayton Littlejohn will preach; Tanner Riley and Diane Smith will present special music.

On Oct. 25, the anniversary celebration will conclude with regular Sunday School and worship times. Chuck Herring and David Poe will be the guest speakers.

Ken Anderson is pastor.



Bethel Church, Copiah Association, recently held a GA coronation. Those earning badges are pictured, left to right: Katie Whittington, first grade step; Nickie Ashley, third grade step; and Ashley Nixon, fifth grade step. GA director is Brenda Nixon; Glen Mullins is pastor.

Parkway Church, Natchez, will host Greater Vision in concert Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (601) 442-7434.

Revival Dates

Washington, Natchez: Oct. 17-18; 17th, 3 p.m. until; 18th, 8 and 11 a.m.; John Yates, Jackson, evangelist and music; Norris Curry, pastor.

Missionary News

38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, has a missionary house available, Oct. 1992-Dec. 1993. For more information, contact: Mrs. Willie Blackwell (601) 264-7576.

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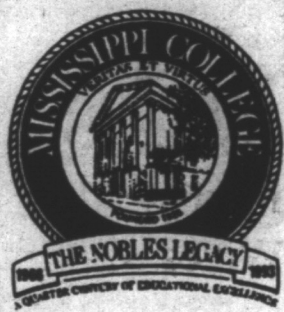
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TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CONVOCATION

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 18-19, 1992

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

7:00 P.M.

CONVOCATION PRAYER SERVICE

First Baptist Church, Clinton

SPEAKER: DR. DANIEL GRANT

Former president, Ouachita Baptist University

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

10:00 A.M.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CONVOCATION

A.E. Wood Coliseum

SPEAKER: DR. JOHN NAISBITT

Author of *Megatrends*, *Megatrends 2000*

NOON

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Nelson Quadrangle

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Homecomings

New Hope, Foxworth: Oct. 18; 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner, noon; afternoon singing, 1:15; no night services; Bobby Walton, Benoit, guest speaker; Glory Land Quartet, McComb, music; Kent Campbell, pastor.

Chunky (Newton): Oct. 18; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in family life building; no night services; Staley Langham, Union Point, Ga., guest speaker; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

Hermanville (Union): Oct. 18; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds following service; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night services; Tommy R. Buftin, Florence, guest speaker; Woodrow W. Clark, interim pastor.

Zion Hill (Copiah): Oct. 18; 10:5 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; noon; special singing; Daryl Ost, r, pastor.

Blythe Creek, Mathiston: Oct. 18; 10 a.m.; covered dish dinner on grounds, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night services; First Love

Revival, music; Gregory Foster, pastor.

Byram Church: Oct. 18; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dinner in family life center; afternoon singing, 1 p.m.; no night services; The Duncan Sisters, Walnut Grove, music; Louis Smith, director, church-minister relations, MCB, guest speaker; James Whittington, pastor.

Cranfield, Roxie: Oct. 18; 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall, noon; no night services; afternoon services, 1:15 p.m.; Arthur Lesley, Grenada, guest speaker; Rusty Bowlin, pastor.

Big Ridge, D'Iberville: Oct. 18; beginning 9:45 a.m.; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing; no night services; Robert Carlisle, pastor.

Godden Lake, Belzoni: Oct. 18; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:30; lunch in fellowship hall; gospel singing, 1; David Blackwell, guest speaker; Southern Cross, special singers; W.D. Kirk, interim pastor.

Sandersville (Jones): Oct. 18; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11; covered dish lunch; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; Bruce Jolly, guest speaker; Randy Whitlock and family, Gospel Strings, guest musicians; Donnie Parker, pastor.

Holcomb (Grenada): Oct. 18; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner, noon; no night services; Randy Futrall, Ripley, guest speaker; Randy Ashley, pastor.

First, Florence: Oct. 18; Sunday Schools and services, concurrently at 9 a.m. and 10:15; dinner on the grounds, 11:30; "Singspiration" following; James Fancher, former pastor, guest speaker; Jimmy Bilbo, former music minister, music; Charles Myers, pastor.

Mt. Carmel, Edinburg (Leake): Oct. 18; regular morning service; lunch in fellowship hall, noon; singing, 1:30 p.m.; Bryce Evans, Wilmer, Ala., guest speaker; Kim Wolverton, pastor.

Stonewall (Simpson): Oct. 18; dinner on the grounds following morning services; Bob G. Jones, pastor.

Mt. Vernon (Holmes): Oct. 18; morning message; Gene Richardson, pastor; noon meal; music program, The Seekers, Pine Crest Church, 1 p.m.

Jayess (Lawrence): Oct. 18; Sunday School, 9:45; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night services; Richard Cothem, Vicksburg, guest speaker; Eddie Bates, pastor.

Names in the News

Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson, licensed Bill Hudson to the gospel ministry Aug. 23. He is married to the former Robbie Wilbanks. Hudson is available for interim or supply and can be reached at: 650 Cedar Springs Dr., Jackson, MS 39212, (601) 372-9741.



Hudson

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Blaze destroys Jones Co. church; members still gather to worship

An early evening fire Oct. 6 destroyed the auditorium of Fellowship Church in the Union community seven miles east of Moselle in Jones County, according to Allen Nix, director of missions for Jones County.

The blaze apparently began as a result of an electrical problem in the attic of the building, Nix said, and was reported about 7:30 p.m. when a nearby resident spotted smoke coming from the building.

Although the auditorium was a complete loss, firefighters from 11 fire departments who responded to

the alarm were able to save the church's fellowship hall and two small portable buildings, he said.

Approximately 100 people attended Sunday services on Oct. 11 in the fellowship hall; Nix reported, and the cooperative missions department, MCB, has loaned the church a mobile chapel that will soon be operational.

Representatives of the church building department, MCB, have also met with church leaders to plan reconstruction, he added.

The destroyed building was built in 1907. Randy Clark is pastor.

ADDICTS

From page 4

Braidfoot's book also connects the spreading influence of gambling interests in national politics to the potential for developing a much larger pool of gamblers.

"The gambling industry is well represented in the halls of power. It has fashioned out many advantages for itself which would prove shocking to the average person.... The trend is in the direction of securing even more favored status by adjusting tax laws in favor of the industry.... The removal of any federal restraints on gambling activity would serve as an inducement for the recruitment of new gamblers," Braidfoot says.

Braidfoot also reports that children of compulsive gamblers are at great risk to repeat their parents' mistakes and continue the destruc-

tive cycle, especially with the easy availability of state-sanctioned games.

"These individuals represent a harvest of shame for not only the American gambling industry but also for those of us who as citizens have allowed this nightmare to develop," he says.

For more information on the lottery proposal in Mississippi, contact the Christian Action Commission at (601) 968-3800.

Citizens Advocating Responsible Economics (CARE) is a group of Mississippians organized to fight the lottery vote.

CARE rallies around the state include:

- Columbus; 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 15; Holiday Inn, 506 Highway 45 North.

- Jackson; 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 22; Holiday Inn North, 5075 I-55 North.

CARE can be contacted at (601) 55-1888.

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By Milton Burd
1 Timothy 5:1-8, 16-21

The church is composed of many groups of people. There are preschoolers, children, youth, and adults. There are adults who are married, single, divorced, and widowed. The list could go on and on in identifying the various groups that make up the church family. Sometimes difficulties arise when church leaders cannot meet all the demands of ministering to every group. Some may feel neglected or left out. It is a challenging opportunity to minister to everyone in the fellowship. It calls for the best efforts of pastor, deacons, staff, and other church leaders. In the lesson for this week (1 Timothy 5), Paul instructed Timothy how to minister to specific groups in his church. Let's look at this passage.

Respecting others as family (vv. 1-2). Paul encouraged Timothy to respect and minister to everyone in the church family. As a young pastor, Timothy might have lacked experience or been inclined to concentrate on the younger members. But Paul was a seasoned veteran. He knew the importance of loving and serving the total church family, regardless of age. His advice to Timothy was to learn to relate to all groups in the church as family: Treat the older members like your mother and father, and the younger members like your brothers and sisters. The church should certainly be a caring, loving place that respects and affirms everyone.

Sensitivity toward the widows (vv. 3-8, 16). Paul turned his attention from groups identified by gender and age to that of widows. Paul recommended giving proper recognition and care to the widows who were really in need. This implies that there were several categories of widows. There were widows with children and/or grandchildren. The children of these widows were encouraged to provide care and support as a means of putting their faith into practice and to repay their parents/grandparents.

Then there was the widow who had a real need. She had no family or means of support. She was all alone. She was completely dependent upon God. She was deserving of help from the church family.

Another kind of widow was the one who lived for pleasure. This widow was worldly minded and self indulgent. She thought that she was alive but in reality was dead.

Paul returned to the subject of family responsibility (v. 8) in providing support for their own; widows, elderly, or any other member in need. If they did not, they were guilty of denying the faith; worse than an unbeliever.

Relating to the elders (vv. 17-20). Paul addressed the relationship of the church to the elders (pastors) in providing for their care. Those who lead well are to be treated with respect and recognition. Paul mentioned double honor, referring to respect and remuneration. Paul defended the right of ministers to receive pay, but he also rebuked those who misuse this right for personal gain. Pastors and other church leaders are also vulnerable to gossip and false accusations that can destroy their ministry. Paul gave guidelines in dealing with this problem. But Paul also said that if a minister did sin, then he was to be rebuked. The purpose of the discipline was to be redemptive in nature.

A principle of impartiality (v. 21). Paul concluded with a strong warning: "Do not show impartiality or favoritism in relationships, whether relating to the young, old, widows, ministers, or those who have sinned." As a young pastor, Timothy was encouraged to treat everyone equally with respect and love. All relationships are strengthened when persons commit themselves before God to treat others impartially.

Burd is minister of education, First Church, Cleveland.

Uniform

A request for wisdom



By Margaret H. Rogers
1 Kings 1:28-37; 2:1-4; 3:3-14

1 Kings and 2 Kings formed one book in the Hebrew Bible and was considered prophetic literature, probably because a prophet put the books together. The two books cover a period of approximately 350 years when kings ruled the land; hence, the name of the books. 1 Kings shows the disastrous effects of social evils upon the spiritual life of a nation.

The book begins with the death of David, followed by a description of Solomon's reign. As David was the second king of Israel and was not a descendant of the former King Saul, the law of succession had not been well established. It was considered natural for the oldest son to take the lead after the death of his father, and perhaps it was on this ground that Adonijah (surviving oldest son) sought to take possession of the throne. This plot was overcome by the timely interference of Nathan, the prophet; Zadok, the priest; and Bathsheba, Solomon's mother.

God had revealed to David that Solomon was to succeed him as king (1 Chronicles 22:9-10). When the group of three approached David about the matter, he immediately had Solomon anointed and he led the people to acclaim him as king. Solomon, of course, was the son of David and Bathsheba, and his name meant "Pacific." While little is known of Solomon's early life, one may assume that, as the son of the king, he had experienced exceptional advantages and that he had taken advantage of his opportunities. In the beginning of his reign, he was a man of sincere purpose and was religious. After the death of David, Solomon was anointed a second time, was met with universal approval, and was publicly accepted as the new ruler of Israel.

David's last words to Solomon (1 Kings 2:1-10). David was probably the most colorful character in Hebrew history, a great and good king. But in this scripture, he is a dying man; therefore, he is giving directions to Solomon. In general, he charges Solomon to keep God's commandments, to follow the divine will, and to be strong and courageous. God had promised David that the Messiah would come from his loins and that promise was absolute. The promise that he would not fail on the throne of Israel, however, was conditional. If Solomon would fulfill the condition, if he would walk before God in sincerity, with zeal and resolution, then God would do his part toward the perpetuating of his promise.

Solomon's request and God's response (1 Kings 3:5-12a). Early in Solomon's reign, he went to Gibeon, six miles north of Jerusalem, for the offering of sacrifice and thanksgiving for God's blessings. At night, Jehovah appeared to the king and said "Ask, what shall I give thee?"

The young king, humble in heart, asked not for riches, nor honor, nor for the death of his enemies, but for an understanding heart to judge people and to discriminate between good and evil. This request so pleased Jehovah that God promised him not only what he asked, but also riches, honor, and length of days. This promise was contingent on the condition that Solomon would walk in the ways of his father, David. Truly, this was a wonderful beginning for a young monarch.

It is traditional to think of Solomon as an exceptionally wise man. However, a careful examination of his entire career leads one to question his wisdom. His fame was made by the magnificence and splendor of his buildings, his vast wealth, and his extravagant court life. One of the big undertakings of Solomon was the construction of the temple David had planned and instructed Solomon to build.

In many respects, Solomon was a great king, but he lacked the strength of character to overcome temptations in his personal life. In his religious life, he defected and turned away from God. God would not tolerate apostasy and idolatry. Beginning life well is only one-half of the journey. Only a deep, close, and continuing relationship with God can offer fulfillment and meaning to life with the ultimate achievement of God's purpose.

Rogers is a member of Salem Church, Collins.

Bible Book

Justified by faith



By R. David Raddin
Romans 3:21-28; 4:1-5, 10, 13-15

"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe" (v. 22). Being right with God is possible only through Jesus Christ. To be justified comes by faith in Christ as Savior. All of the complex words and concepts of religion do not change the simple message of salvation. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

God's righteousness in Christ (3:21-26). "But now" in verse 21 contrasts the fact that all persons are condemned in their sin to the fact of God's offer to redeem all who come to Christ as Savior. Through his death on the cross, God's righteousness is shown to every person. Through faith, every person can have a personal relationship with Christ. "There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (v. 22-24).

Made right with God through faith (3:27-28). "Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law" (vv. 27-28).

No amount of good works can make a person right before God. All of us have sinned and works cannot take that sin away. Only the grace of God in Christ can make salvation possible.

The Galatians dealt with the temptation to rely on works to find favor with God. Paul expresses to them that it is by God's grace through the cross that we are saved and by his grace that those who are saved live. In his closing remarks in the Galatian letter, Paul writes, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Gal. 6:14).

Abraham: made right with God through faith, not works (4:1-5). "If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about — but not before God. What does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness'" (vv. 2-3).

Abraham, the one the Jews considered the father of their nation, is used as an example from the Old Testament of one justified by faith. God revealed himself to Abraham. Abraham responded to God in faith.

Every one of us is offered righteousness through Christ. J.W. McGorman says, "Right standing with God involves a righteousness that is reckoned and sin that is not reckoned. This is the essence of justification by faith" (Romans: Everyman's Gospel).

Abraham: made right with God before circumcision (4:10). In Genesis 15:6, Abraham's justification is described. In Genesis 17:22-27, several years later, Abraham's circumcision is recorded. His circumcision then, did not make him righteous, but was a sign that he had been made righteous by God through faith. Our kinship to God does not come through works or lineage, but through personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Abraham: made right with God through faith, not law (4:13-15). What about God's promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir to the world? Paul says that the promise did not come through law, "but through the righteousness that comes by faith" (v. 13). Faith is the only way a person can respond to God's grace. Will you respond today to God's offer of salvation and be justified by faith?

Raddin is pastor, First Church, Yazoo City.

capsules

HOW MANY BAPTISTS DRINK? STUDIES REFLECT WIDE RANGE: — In a 1986 study of Southern Baptists by National Family Research, more than 1,000 Southern Baptists answered a questionnaire on societal and denominational issues; 40% said they occasionally use alcoholic beverages, compared to 69% of "other Protestants" and 81.8% of Catholics. A 1987 Gallup poll found that 51% of Southern Baptists drink, again the lowest percentage among major denominations.

KAZAKHSTAN-AMERICAN FESTIVAL SEEKS BAPTISTS FOR EXCHANGE: ALMA-ATA, Kazakhstan (BP) — Planners of the Kazakhstan-American Festival are poised for a third volley of cultural exchanges and hope to send hundreds of Southern Baptists to the former Soviet republic next year. The festival is part of a partnership project between Pennsylvania-South Jersey Baptists and Kazakhstan, but organizers are encouraging volunteers from across the United States to participate. The festival allows Americans of varying denominations to make contact with Muslim people in Kazakhstan who have been isolated from the West for centuries. Festival organizers need people with backgrounds in business, education, health, the arts, science, industry, governmental law, and social work. They welcome individuals, but would prefer Southern Baptists to organize teams through their local churches and then contact Bill Peacock by calling toll-free (800) 999-3113, or writing P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

CLAUDE KING RESIGNS POST TO WRITE ON AWAKENING: NASHVILLE (BP) — Out of "a sense of emergency" for the need of spiritual awakening in America, Claude King has resigned his supervisory position at the Sunday School Board, effective Oct. 31, to give full attention to writing materials on the subject. King, supervisor of the LIFE support unit in the board's discipleship and family development division, has agreed to write "A Fresh Encounter with God: God's Pattern for Revival" in conjunction with Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening at the Home Mission Board. They hope to have the materials published by April 1993 and promote their use in simultaneous revivals to be held in many Southern Baptist churches in 1995.

JAMES JORDAN RESIGNS FROM SHORTER COLLEGE: ROME, Ga. (BP) — James Jordan, president of Shorter College the past five years, resigned Oct. 2, citing differences in administrative philosophy and style and other personal reasons. Jordan is president of the Southern Baptist Association of Colleges and Schools, vice president of the Association of Private Colleges and Universities in Georgia and president-elect of the Georgia Association of Colleges. "We are grateful," Austin Moses, chairman of the board of trustees, states, "for these five good years, and wish for Dr. Jordan the very best in the future."

CHINESE BAPTISMS TAKE TWO DAYS: XUZHOU, China — It took two days and extra pastors from nearby cities to baptize 417 new members of Xuzhou Christian Church in Jiangsu province during recent services. Southern Baptist visitors Charles and Mary Elizabeth Ray of Purvis watched believers stream into the church for the second baptism service. They said the new Christians were obviously moved by the experience despite "the noise and commotion" generated by the throng attending the service. "It was amazing," Mrs. Ray said. "Even in the midst of such a large crowd, it seemed to be a meaningful, personal event for each one." A church leader said the baptisms put membership there at "something close to 1,500." He attributes the influx of new believers to the Holy Spirit. "We have no other explanation," he said. The Rays teach at the China University of Mining and Technology in Xuzhou under the sponsorship of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

SECOND COMING OCT. 28, SOME KOREANS BELIEVE: SEOUL, South Korea — Thousands of Koreans are leaving jobs and families to prepare for what they believe will be Christ's return Oct. 28. Some women have even had abortions, according to Asian press reports, so they will not be too heavy to be lifted up to Christ during the rapture. More than 70 churches in South Korea — with more than 20,000 followers — are declaring the date, according to the Seoul-based International Religion Research Institute. Beginning Oct. 28, they warn, 50 million people will die in earthquakes, 50 million in traffic accidents, 50 million from fire, 50 million from collapsed buildings, 1.4 billion from World War III and 1.4 billion from a separate Armageddon. Mainstream Korean Protestants and Catholics call the groups heretical. Authorities fear mass suicides among the doomsday groups if Christ fails to appear. The government has launched a nationwide investigation into the proliferation of sects in a bid to head off mass hysteria. One official said prosecutors are studying the sermons and methods of those propagating their belief of the rapture. He said distributing unauthorized leaflets or posters and using loudspeakers for missionary work are offenses.

A dog of a sermon: the parable of "Wink" illustrates God's love

By Mark Wingfield

PRESTONSBURG, Ky. (BP) — It was a "dog" of a sermon, but Dale Holloway used the bite of dry humor to make a serious point about God's love.

Holloway, national consultant for bivocational ministries in the Southern Baptist Convention, spoke about "My Dog Wink" during one session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's fall evangelism conference.

Holloway told the story of finding a stray dog to illustrate the biblical parable of the lost sheep recorded in Luke 15. Jesus told the parable to explain his love for every person.

Wink, Holloway explained, was a stray dog with an odd coloring and one eye that always looked like he was winking. Just as Jesus cares for people who have strayed, Holloway cared for his newfound dog, he said.

And just as Holloway washed the dog to make him as clean as possible, Jesus washes his lost sheep completely of their sins, he said.

Holloway said he quickly wanted to feed Wink, and that's the way God treats those in his care. "God loves me and feeds me a lot more food than I need."

Further, Wink soon knew his master's voice and responded to it, Holloway said. And Christians should be the same way toward Jesus, he added. "Does your voice sound like you belong to Jesus? Do people look at you and say, 'He belongs to Jesus'?"

Wink was always faithful to his master, which is more than Jesus can say for most Christians, Holloway continued. "Most dogs are more faithful to their masters than most Christians are to their Lord."

Wink didn't have many gifts, but

what he could do — chase chickens — he did very well, Holloway said.

But Wink had one fatal flaw, he said. Wink liked to chase cars.

One day Wink saw a '38 Chevy, chased it and caught it, Holloway related. "Wink didn't need a car. He didn't know what to do with one."

But that desire to catch something he didn't need led to catastrophe, as the '38 Chevy hit Wink and critically injured him.

That's another lesson Christians should learn from Wink, Holloway said. "What are you chasing today? Sometimes the things we chase may be fatal — fatal to our Christian witness or to our marriage."

Editor's Note: Holloway makes his home in Florence, Miss.

Wingfield writes for HMB.

Great Commission Breakthrough third phase targets 14,000 churches

NASHVILLE (BP) — More than 3,000 churches have begun customized growth projects through Great Commission Breakthrough, but that number is expected to swell to 14,000 by September 1995, according to planners at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Great Commission Breakthrough provides individualized growth planning, training and consultation focused on developing the Sunday School, said Art Burcham, manager of the church growth projects section in the church growth-Sunday School division.

During the pilot and training phases, 2,250 consultants have been trained, Burcham said. While the project has been developed by

the Sunday School Board, primary focus for implementation is with state conventions which are matching churches and consultants, Burcham said.

In Mississippi, for example, more than 100 consultants have been trained and have assignments for churches, Burcham said.

Although the implementation phase is beginning in October, training sessions will continue with a goal of training 7,000 consultants by September 1995, Burcham said.

Each consultant is encouraged to work with at least two churches to reach the goal of 14,000 churches by 1995.

Once a church enters the Great

Commission Breakthrough project, a consultant is assigned. The consultant assesses the church's Sunday School program prior to a three-day session where church leaders evaluate the church's commitment and plan for growth, he said.

Great Commission Breakthrough involves the pastor as leader in growth planning, Burcham said. "The project can make a pastor's future at a church. The pastor needs to be at the heart of what the church is doing in Sunday School."

As the church implements changes to develop Sunday School growth, the consultant continues to assist the church, Burcham said.

Churches interested in participating in the Great Commission Breakthrough Project should contact their state convention Sunday School department, Burcham said.

Nine have led Foreign Mission Board since 1846

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Nine men have led the Foreign Mission Board since 1846.

The chief executive has been designated by different terms, including corresponding secretary, executive secretary, executive director, and president.

It took a year to find the first corresponding secretary. The first man chosen when the board was founded in 1845 was C.D. Mallory, who declined for health reasons and prior commitments. Four others elected to the office declined. At the 1846 convention in Richmond, James B. Taylor was unanimously elected.

The executives, their length of tenure and the number of mission fields entered during each tenure include:

James B. Taylor, June 1846-Dec. 1871; four mission fields entered.

Henry Allen Tupper, Feb. 1872-June 1893; three fields entered.

Robert J. Willingham, Sept.

1893-Dec. 1914; three fields entered.

James F. Love, June 1915-May 1928; three fields entered.

T. Bronson Ray, Oct. 1929-Dec. 1932; no new fields entered.

Charles E. Maddy, Jan. 1933-Dec. 1944; two fields entered.

M. Theron Rankin, Jan. 1945-June 27, 1953; 20 fields entered.

Baker James Cauthen, Oct. 1953-Dec. 1979; 67 fields entered.

R. Keith Parks, Jan. 1980-Oct. 1992; 40 fields entered. *

* The pace of new fields entered was faster during Parks' presidency than during any other executive tenure, averaging one new field every 3.8 months, compared, for example, to one every 4.7 months during the term of Baker James Cauthen. In addition, during the Parks' presidency service was provided to more than 10 other countries without official designation, since missionaries cannot be assigned there.

Baptist Record

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